

two months—nevertheless we were thankful for having at last arrived safely.

The general appearance of Simon's Bay and town had much improved during an absence of seven years. Several new buildings had been erected, many enlarged, and the arrangements of the gardens and grounds around them very pleasing; this was added to by our having a large store ship, or depôt, moored in the bay.

I was one of the number of sick ordered to the hospital, to recruit during our stay here, and, having been placed under the care of an old and much esteemed messmate, I had every prospect of recovering, sufficiently to undertake the remaining portion of the voyage.

There is not a doubt but "Drunkenness is the root of all evil" on board a ship. If we carefully analyze every error, every fault that is committed, we can trace it to a propensity for liquor; if a robbery, it is either done under the influence of spirits, or in an endeavour to get at it. Mostly all accidents (and I have witnessed some heartrending ones) are attributable to drunkenness; insolence, which can never be tolerated in a well-disciplined vessel, may be generally traced to inebriety; to drunkenness may be traced desertion and leave-breaking. Murders and other heinous offences are mostly committed while labouring under intoxication; and now we lose one of our best petty officers by a fall down the fore hold while in a state of drunkenness, a steady, faithful person, who has just commenced his seventh year with us; but when his love for spirits masters him, he is gone! He has now paid the forfeit by his life.